

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of providing an additional service to a user of a communication company's communication service, the method comprising providing an additional service to the user who receives a call through the communication service of the communication company, in accordance with a communication time.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the additional service is a discount of a communication charge for the call, the discount calculated in accordance with the communication time.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the communication company provides the additional service in accordance with the communication time and the amount of communication.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the communication company provides the additional service in accordance with the length of time a calling party uses the communication services of the communication company.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the

communication company provides the additional service in accordance with (i) a communication time for which a calling party uses the communication services of the communication company and (ii) a communication time for which the calling party does not use the communication services of the communication company.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the communication company provides the additional service in accordance with (i) a communication time for which a calling party uses the communication services of the communication company and (ii) a communication time not related to the communication company used by the calling party.

7. A method of providing additional service to a user of a communication company's communication service, the method comprising providing the additional service to the user who received a call through the communication service of the communication company, in accordance with the amount of communication.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the additional service is a discount of a communication charge for the call, the discount calculated in accordance with amount of communication.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9. An additional-service providing apparatus used by a communication company that provides communication services, comprising:

informing means for informing a user, who uses the communication services of the communication company, of a call sent to the user; and

providing means for providing at least one additional service to the user in accordance with the time of communication.

10. An additional-service providing apparatus used by a communication company that provides communication service, comprising:

sending means for a call to a user, who uses the communication services of the communication company; and

providing means for providing at least one additional service to the user in accordance with the amount of communication measured by said measuring means.

11. A computer program product loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising program code portions for performing the steps of:

measuring a communication time of a call to a user through a communication service of a communication company;

and

providing an additional service to a user according to the communication time measured by said program code for measuring a communication time.

12. A computer program product loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising program code portions for performing the steps of:

measuring a communication time of a call to a user through a communication service of a communication company; and

providing at least one additional service to a user according to the communication amount measured by said program code for measuring a communication time.

13. A communication system comprising an accumulator for accumulating a communication time or the amount of communication of a call received by a subscriber, or for accumulating the communication time and the amount of communication,

wherein additional service is provided according to the value of the accumulator.

14. A communication system according to claim 13, further comprising a discount calculator for calculating a

discount on a communication charge to be paid by the subscriber to a communication company.

15. A communication system comprising:

a third switching office for determining whether a first communication company and a second communication company are identical,

wherein the first communication company provides a communication service between a called party and a first switching office, and the second communication company provides a communication service between a calling party and a second switching office, and

wherein at least one additional service is provided according to the determination made by said third switching office.

16. A communication system according to Claim 15, further comprising a fourth switching office for determining a communication company to be connected according to (i) a system requirement in each communication company, (ii) a condition required by the calling party, and (iii) a condition required by the called party when a plurality of communication companies provide communication services for the called party.

17. A communication system according to Claim 16, wherein the fourth switching office comprises setting means for setting the required conditions,

wherein a subscriber makes a call to a predetermined phone number to access said setting means.

18. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of measuring the communication time.

19. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of measuring the amount of communication.

20. The additional service providing apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising time measuring means for measuring a communication time of the call.

21. The additional service providing apparatus of Claim 10, further comprising time measuring means for measuring an amount of communication during the call.

22. The communication system of Claim 14, further comprising a charge calculator for calculating a communication charge in accordance with a value held by said accumulator.